

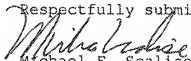
REMARKS

Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 9 and 11 to 27 are pending.

No claims are allowed.

Independent claims 1, 7, 14, 20, 22 and 23 have been amended to set forth that the threaded lower portion having the hourglass shape extends from where the compression ramp ends at the hourglass shape to the bottom side of the bone plate with threaded surfaces of the overlapping holes meeting each other at a threaded overlap. This was discussed with the examiner on November 24, 2009.

It is believed that claims 1 to 3, 5 to 9 and 11 to 27 are now in condition for allowance. Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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